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## HISTORICAL NOTES.

VALUE OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC TREASURER IN 1776—The case of Henry Peronneau may be found printed in the *Second Report, Ontario Archives*, 1904, Part II, p. 1201.

He had been appointed Public Treasurer of South Carolina in 1770 to succeed M<sup>r</sup>. Jacob Motte, whose daughter he had married, and in 1771 Benjamin Dart was made with him a joint-holder of the office.

On 26 March, 1776, he was dispossessed of the office by the adoption of the Constitution on that date, and he paid over to the "Rebel Governor Rutledge" the balance of the public moneys then in his hands. Refusing to take the "Oath of Allegiance and Abjuration," he was imprisoned and in April, 1777, he was banished from the State and went to Holland, and thence to England.

From the British Treasury he received an allowance of £200 per annum, dating from 1 January, 1778; but when Charles Town was taken by Sir Henry Clinton in 1781, he was ordered to return. Arriving there on 3 June, 1781, he remained until the evacuation in December, 1782, and during this period held a little office of the value of 10 Shillings a day.

He stated the loss of the office at £800 per annum and that this arose from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on all sums paid in and out of the Treasury.

His brother, Robert Peronneau, testified as to the emoluments of the office, and estimated the commissions of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on moneys received and paid out at £500 per annum, while the fees of 5 shillings each for entering and 20 shillings each for clearing ships amounted to about £400. These emoluments were independent of interest, which amounted to at least £1000 more.

The witness recollected no commission on taxes.

M<sup>r</sup>. Robert William Powell testified that the reputed income of the Treasurer's office was £2000 per annum, of which M<sup>r</sup>. Peronneau had the half.

The Board allowed M<sup>r</sup>. Peronneau £400 per annum for the half profits of the office of Treasurer, but apparently off-set this partially by the allowance from the Treasury

of £200 per annum. From the statements of this case the items only have been abstracted which go to show the value of this office at that period, but the case is full of interest in other respects.

The valuations seem all to have been made in Sterling.  
(*Contributed by D. E. Huger Smith.*)

RICE SHIPMENTS IN 1743—The following letter in the possession of this Society, is from a firm of merchants in Charles Town to their London agent, and is of interest because it gives the value of rice and the freight charges, for that year.

[*Addressed:*] To  
M<sup>r</sup> James Pearce  
In  
London

☞ Capt Chads  
Q D C

Charles Town 8<sup>th</sup> July 1743

M<sup>r</sup> James Pearce

The Foregoing is third Copy of what we had the favour of writing you the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo, since which we have not had any of your further favours, this God Willing Comes Handed to you by the Ship Grayhound Thomas Perkins master, and Covers invoice and Bill of Lading, for one Hundred and fifty barrells of Rice shiped on the same for our account and risque. Amounting to £1423.. 16.. 10.. which be pleased to Dispose of to the best advantage and pass the proceeds to our Acco<sup>t</sup>. this parcell of Rice is very good, it has all been screened and we hope it will Keep its Collour and that the Quallitye will recommend it (if not other advantage) to a Quick Sale and that you will have but Little Trouble with it:—Inclosed we remitt you M<sup>r</sup>. David Montaguit [sic] first bill of Exchange for £20 Sterling on Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Peter & H Simmonds of London payable to your order £15.. 10.. thereof is for your and Company account and Exactly Ballances their account Current here annex'd, the remainder £4.. 10.. .. be pleased to pass to our Credit. We have Endeavoured to Dispose of the bouy both by private and Publick Sale but Cant as yet

Effect it, no body would offer any thing for it. Rice is still at 30| and Freight for London at £4.. 7/9 ton, the Rice Crop on the Ground is very promising having Lately had fine Season, of Rain, and if we have the Like Continuence to the Earing Time we shall have a Large Crop, we shall advice you how it will prove, and as we have nothing further at present to offer, we take Leave to assure you of our best respects and are —————

*[On the same sheet, in different hand.]*

Charles Town 13 July 1743

Sir

In foregoing Copy of what we wrote you the 8<sup>th</sup> Curr<sup>t</sup> 7/9 Capt Perkins who pass'd our Barr the 10<sup>th</sup>. to w<sup>ch</sup>. please to Lett us referr you, This Serving only to hand you another of his Bills of Lading for the 150 Barrels Rice as mentioned in Copy and M<sup>r</sup>. David Montaguit Second Bill of Exchange for £20 Ster<sup>r</sup>. in your favor on Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Peter & H. Simmonds, and is for account as is Express'd on the other side w<sup>ch</sup>. being the present Needful we remain

Sir Your most Humble Ser<sup>ts</sup>.

Hill & Guerard